

**CHAPTER NO. 433**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1631**

**By Cooper, Haynes**

**Substituted for: House Bill No. 1611**

**By West, Odom**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50 and Title 56, relative to workers' compensation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-204, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(4)(A) and subdivision (a)(4)(B) in their entirety and substituting instead the following:

(4)(A) The injured employee shall accept the medical benefits afforded hereunder; provided that, except as provided in subdivision (a)(4)(B) or in subdivision (a)(4)(D), the employer shall designate a group of three (3) or more reputable physicians or surgeons not associated together in practice, if available in that community, from which the injured employee shall have the privilege of selecting the operating surgeon or the attending physician; and provided further, that the liability of the employer for such services rendered the employee shall be limited to such charges as prevail for similar treatment in the community where the injured employee resides.

(B) If the injury is a back injury, then the group of three (3) or more physicians or surgeons required to be designated pursuant to subdivision (a)(4)(A) shall be expanded to four (4), one of whom must be a doctor of chiropractic; provided, no more than twelve (12) visits to such doctor of chiropractic shall be approved per back injury. The provisions of this subdivision (a)(4)(B) shall not apply to state or local government employees and shall not apply to workers' compensation self-insurer pools established pursuant to §50-6-405(c)(1). The provisions of this subdivision (a)(4)(B) shall be repealed on June 30, 2005.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: February 26, 2004

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2004

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR